

FARMING and COOPERATIVES

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ARTICLES

	Page
Possibilities of Livestock Farming in the Philippines — Vicente Araneta	2
My Alma Mater — the College of Agriculture — R. R. de Arana	4
Alfredo Montelibano	6
Commercial Possibilities of Ramie Fiber Production in the Cagayan Valley—Julio Jamias	7
National Land Settlement — G. J. Lothar Maetze	8
Saga of the Great Earth—(Poem) —C. M. Vega	9
Those Ideal Lands — F. de la Cruz	10
Agriculture—Most Honorable Vocation—Richard R. Hill	12

DEPARTMENTS

The Cooperative Movement—Hilarion S. Silayan	14
Questions and Answers On Livestock and Poultry Culture — Carlos X. Burgos	16
Progressive Farming	17
The March of Events	18
In Lighter Vein	28

EDITORIAL

An Outline of Measures for the Solution of Agrarian Problems in Central Luzon	1
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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS	36
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FARMING AND COOPERATIVES

EDITORIAL

AN OUTLINE OF MEASURES FOR THE SOLUTION OF
AGRARIAN PROBLEMS IN CENTRAL LUZON

SUBMITTED BY THE PHILIPPINE FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Guiding Principles:

1. Tenant improvement is a necessary step to attain for the rural population a better standard of living and a greater participation in the advantages of economic progress than now obtaining in the rural districts.
2. Measures for tenant improvement shall be democratic, providing that the farmers, tenants and landowners alike, shall take active participation in the study of farm problems and in the determination of measures for the amelioration of conditions, and shall assume certain responsibility in carrying out the plans decided upon.
3. Measures shall aim to insure fair distribution of the legitimate shares from the farm income, of the tenant labor, management, and capital.

Objectives:

1. An enlightened and progressive rural population and contented tenants.
2. An adequate labor income for the tenant to permit him a satisfactory standard of living and educate his children, and improve his social and economic status.
3. Extension into general practice among farmers, tenants and operating landowners alike, of up-to-date efficient methods of production.
4. Increased production at economic cost.
5. Greater opportunity for employment, diversification of production, and industrialization through resource development.
6. Conservation of soil fertility.
7. A close and happy relationship between landowners and tenants.

Measures:

1. Establishment of peace and order as the primary requirement for orderly and economic production through the immediate setting up of the following:
 1. Immediate collection of unlicensed firearms.
 2. Suppression of all kinds of subversive movements.
 3. Organization of a strong and effective law enforcing agency to provide security even in the remote barrio.

4. Strick enforcement of laws particularly on thefts of crops and farm animals.

2. Increasing the income of tenants through greater production to be achieved principally:
 1. By increasing the landholding of tenants to at least two and one half hectares per family on irrigated rice lands.
 2. By developing an intensive and diversified cropping system to keep the labor, animal, implements and land profitably engaged throughout the year.
 3. By encouraging tenants to adopt as a general practice the raising of poultry and hogs.
 4. By creating home industries such as weaving, pottery, toy making, canning, cutlery, etc.
 5. By obliging the tenants to plant the homelot, assigned to him as a privilege under the Tenancy Act, to vegetables and fruit trees.
 6. By providing through amendment of the Tenancy laws, a fair system of distribution of the farm income, to tenant labor and management and capital.

3. Introduction of improved methods of production by the operation of a well organized, sufficiently manned, and adequately financed, government agricultural guidance service for the following:
 1. To organize and supervise cooperative Tenant Improvement Societies; providing sane leadership for the rural population.
 2. To help and provide information to farmers on:
 01. Better business methods on farming enterprise;
 02. Use of good seeds of high yielding varieties;
 03. Efficient methods of soil preparation;
 04. Effective control of pests and diseases;
 05. Proper use of fertilizers;
 06. Diversification of crops;
 07. Labor saving devices;
 08. Home lot improvement and profitable home industries.

(Continued on page 36)

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 1)

4. Providing the tenants greater opportunity to own land through:

1. Operation of organized land settlements along the Koronadal land settlement system in all the agricultural public domain. Land classification should be rushed, agricultural land should be released from public Domain and organized land settlements established therein, to accommodate the tenants from congested rice regions.

2. Free transportation facilities should be given to tenant families emigrating to designated land settlement sites.

3. Acquisition of large landed estates for subdivision and resale to tenants on long term amortization payments.

5. Resource development to provide employment, develop power, facilitate industrialization:

1. By undertaking flood and river control and designing the dams, and other structures with due consideration for water power, irrigation and drainage, transportation, and inland fisheries, of the following rivers:
 Agno River in Pangasinan,
 Tarlac River in Tarlac,
 Rio Grande de Pampanga, Pampanga & N.E.
 Angat River in Bulacan.

2. By establishing factories for the utilization of local materials as follows:

- Rice straw for the production of paper pulp;
- Cassava for starch production;
- Dehydration, and canning of vegetables, fruits, poultry and meat products;
- Fertilize production by electric process;
- Forest products utilization;
- Operation of rice mills and warehouses by farmers associations;
- Rice bran for tiki-tiki production;
- Refrigeration of meats and fruits and vegetables and production of ham and other meat products.

6. Providing credit at low interest to tenants and small independent farmers:

1. Providing a liberal appropriation of not less than ten million pesos to the small farmers loan fund now under operation under the Department of Labor.

2. Development of a thrift and saving system in connection with the small farmers loan fund.

7. Maintenance of the price of palay on a favorable ration with prices of other essential commodities and principal export crops.

8. Making the Rural Districts equally attractive as the cities for ambitious young men and women to live in:

1. By undertaking extensive public works projects such as the building of rural roads, bridges, public buildings, waterworks, national parks, and rural recreation centers;

2. By electrification of the rural districts;

3. By improving the rural high schools in order that they may be equally attractive, adequately provided with facilities for excellent vocational training.

4. By organizing home industries on a local or national scale for financing, collection, distribution and improvements.

These measures are submitted in an outline form as it is believed that this is sufficient for policy determination. The Philippine Farmers Association shall be willing to cooperate with the authorities concerned in whatever manner possible and with the service of individual members to work out the complete and detailed plans for the project that the government may adopt in order to avert the dangers that are imminent, if the mounting agrarian difficulties are not met with adequate solution.

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

(Alphabetical List)

	Page
A. Peña Oteyza	11
El Cairo	Cover III
Excelsior Hat Store	34
Farmacia Balintawak	29
Fred Wilson & Co., Inc. .	Cover II
Luzon Surety Co., Inc.	31
LVN Pictures	Cover IV
Manila Surety & Fidelity Co.	Cover II
M. Josue	23
Philippine Bank of Communication	31
Philippine Farmers Association	21 & 25
Tarifa & Sons	35
United Beverage Manufacturing Co.	22

Read The
 "Farming
 and
 Cooperatives"

TO OUR READERS

"The Farming and Cooperatives" wishes to apologize to its patrons for the delay of this issue. Due to unforeseen circumstances and change in personnel we had to combine the January and February numbers in one issue. However, our subscribers will receive the exact twelve numbers for one year. We shall put out an improved journal in the future.

—The Management